

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-14 (canceled).

15. (currently amended) A method for managing inventory, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving food-related inventory preferences for a each of a plurality of users at a controller for a particular storage area that monitors current food-related inventory in said particular storage area;

receiving food-related inventory preferences for a particular user from among said plurality of users at said controller from a personal electronic memory digital data storage device ~~carried on the person of said particular user~~ proffered by said particular user at said controller;

adjusting a current database of intended food-related inventory for said particular storage area at said controller according to said food-related inventory preferences; and

determining a selection of food-related items from among said database of intended inventory items that are absent from said particular storage area, such that food-related inventory that is intended for said particular storage area is managed.

16. (original) The method for managing inventory according to claim 15, said step of receiving food-related inventory preferences for a each of a plurality of users at a controller for a particular storage area that monitors current food-related inventory in said particular storage area, further comprising the step of:

receiving food-related inventory preferences for each of said plurality of users at said controller from a plurality of portable computer systems.

17. (previously canceled)

18. (original) The method for managing inventory according to claim 15, said step of receiving food-related inventory preferences for a each of a plurality of users at a controller for a particular storage area that monitors current food-related inventory in said particular storage area, further comprising the step of:

receiving food-related inventory preferences for a particular user from among said plurality of users at said controller via a particular universally accessible server system according to a particular universal identifier associated with said particular user.

19. (original) The method for managing inventory according to claim 15, said step of receiving food-related inventory preferences for a each of a plurality of users at a controller for a particular storage area that monitors current food-related inventory in said particular storage area, further comprising the step of:

receiving food-related inventory preferences in an extensible mark-up language data format.

20. (original) The method for managing inventory according to claim 15, said method further comprising the step of:

periodically receiving records of additions and removals of food-related items from said particular storage area at said controller.

21. (original) The method for managing inventory according to claim 15, said step of adjusting a database of intended food-related inventory for said particular storage area at said controller according to said food-related inventory preferences, further comprising the step of:

adding said food-related inventory preferences to a base list of amounts of food-related items intended to be maintained in inventory of said particular storage area.

22. (original) The method for managing inventory according to claim 15, said step of adjusting a database of intended food-related inventory for said particular storage area at said controller according to said food-related inventory preferences, further comprising the step of:

adding said food-related inventory preferences to previously received food-related inventory preferences for amounts of food-related items intended to be maintained in inventory of said particular storage area.

23. (original) The method for managing inventory according to claim 15, said step of adjusting a database of intended food-related inventory for said particular storage area at said controller according to said food-related inventory preferences, further comprising the step of:
adjusting amounts of food-related items included in said database of intended food-related inventory according to additions and removal of food-related items detected from said particular storage area.

24. (original) The method for managing inventory according to claim 15, said step of adjusting a database of intended food-related inventory for said particular storage area at said controller according to said food-related inventory preferences, further comprising the step of:
combining said food-related inventory preferences for each of said plurality of users.

25. (original) The method for managing inventory according to claim 15, said method further comprising the step of:
transmitting said selection of food-related items that are absent from said particular storage area to a store.

26. (original) The method for managing inventory according to claim 15, said method further comprising the steps of:
receiving a request from a particular store for said selection of food-related items that are absent from said particular storage area at a universally accessible server system according to a particular universal identifier associated with said particular storage area;
enabling access to said selection of food-related items that are absent from said particular storage area if said particular store is included in a plurality of allowable requesters for said particular storage area.

Claims 27-37 (canceled)

38. (currently amended) A method for managing inventory by a portable computer system, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving food-related inventory preferences for each of a plurality of users at a portable computer system that monitors current food-related inventory in a particular storage area;

receiving food-related inventory preferences for a particular user from among said plurality of users at said controller from a personal electronic memory digital data storage device ~~carried on the person of said particular user~~ proffered by said particular user at said controller;

adjusting a current database of intended food-related inventory for said particular storage area at said portable computer system according to said food-related inventory preferences; and

determining a selection of food-related items from among said database of intended inventory items that are absent from said particular storage area, such that food-related inventory that is intended for said particular storage area is managed by said portable computer system.

Claims 39-43 (canceled)